

Preface

We are pleased to present a selection of papers from the Tenth International April Conference, held in Kraków on April 20-22, 2005. The occasion marked twenty-seven years of regular triennial meetings of specialists in English and American literature and language from Poland, other European countries, and from the United States and Canada. The theme of the Tenth April Conference was "Language and Identity: English and American Studies in the Age of Globalization." By definition, April Conferences do not have a narrowly defined focus; rather, they encourage contributions on a wide range of topics and provide an opportunity for faculty members of different English departments, who work in various areas of specialization, to meet and exchange ideas. We are pleased to note that the Conference attracts an ever-increasing number of participants; this time, 130 scholars took part in the Conference, 110 papers were read and almost 90 papers were submitted for publication.

Because of the large number of valuable contributions submitted for publication, we have decided to publish two volumes of the proceedings: papers on literature (I) and papers on language and culture (II). The present volume contains a selection of papers with a literary focus; it should be remembered, however, that many papers given at the conference were interdisciplinary in character, combining literary, cultural and linguistic themes, so that literary themes can be found in both volumes. The papers cover a wide range of topics from medieval literature to most recent publications in poetry and prose, offering interesting and illuminating insights into English, American and Canadian novel, poetry and drama. Apart from papers which focus on individual works or au-

thors, there are some that span centuries in pursuit of common themes and motifs in western literature.

We would like to thank our plenary speakers: David Cowart of the University of South Carolina, Michael Irwin of the University of Kent at Canterbury, and Noel Harold Kaylor of Troy University, Alabama. Our special thanks go to Robert Rehder of the University of Freiburg, Switzerland, who gave a poetry reading to the Conference guests.

We are indebted to the scholars who reviewed the articles gathered here, and whose valuable comments have helped to improve the presented papers.

We would also like to express our sincere gratitude to the British Council, the American Consulate in Kraków, the Ministry of Education and Science, and the Faculty of Philology of the Jagiellonian University for their financial support which made this Conference possible.

The editors, as usual, accept full responsibility for any inadvertent errors that may have crept into this publication.

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